

The Worship of God

GINTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Zoom Meeting ID: 804 359 2475 • 6100 Chamberlayne Road, Richmond VA • 804-359-2475
First Sunday of Advent • December 1st, 2024 • 10:30 AM

GATHERING & REFLECTING (10:20 AM)

During this time of reflection, we invite you to take a few moments to prepare yourself for worship. Take a few deep breaths and settle into the quiet. Center yourself through art by coloring the attached picture. Slip off your shoes and remember that you are on holy ground. No matter what this time looks like for you, your whole self is welcome in this space.

*It doesn't matter whether or not
you can have faith;
whether or not you are cynical
or despairing,
hope-filled or hope-less:
what matters to God is simply
that you are here.*

*We are entering the time of
Advent,
in preparation for Christmas.
Advent reminds us that if God is
to be born again
in the most ordinary parts of
our world and our lives
that we need to prepare for it.
We need to make the space in
our lives
where love might be born.*

*Welcome to this tiny corner of a
harsh and dark world.
Together, let us practice being
ready
in the faith that Christ will
come.
(written by Cheryl Lawrie)*

CHIMING THE TRINITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sheryl Johnson

*Responsive readings like this one are a part of worship. The congregation's part is in **bold**.*

One: Awake, for a new day is dawning;

Many: Hope sparks and catches flame.

One: Arise, for the time is approaching;

Many: Peace seizes the hearts of the people.

One: Announce to the world that the Lord is coming;

Many: Joy fills the air, moves us into the dance of the Spirit.

One: The Advent of our God is here!

Many: God's Love is coming into our world and lives in a new way.

INVOCATION PRAYER

HYMN No. 125

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Some of us stand while singing, and others don't. Please join us in song in whatever way you are comfortable.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE: HOPE

The word "Advent" comes from an ancient Latin phrase meaning "until the coming." It is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming of the Christ-child. In this time for reflection, we take each Sunday leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus to reflect on some themes that center us as we wait with eager expectation for the glory of God to be revealed. This Sunday, many across the globe center on "Hope."

One: When the world is frightening and we desire to escape from the ongoing suffering,

Many: The Womb of Creation invites us to remember a hope within.

One: It is the hope within us that leads us to transform the conditions around us.

Many: We cling to hope in a world full of despair. We search for it;

One: We dare to discover hope in the small, yet magnificent moments of our days.

Many: Let us light this candle of hope as we remember the God-with-us and the hope within us.

RESPONSE

"Advent Doxology"

IRBY

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son.

Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One.

Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

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SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Sheryl Johnson

Prayer requests are shared out loud with the gathered community. If you have a joy or a concern to share, please raise your hand to request the microphone

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (ALL)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

HYMN No. 129

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

SCRIPTURE

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

Anita Laffoon

SERMON

"Beautiful Things"

Anita Laffoon

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in Communion here, and you are also welcome to remain at your seat if that is more comfortable for you. Communion is received by intinction, where you are handed a piece of bread to dip in the chalice. We use non-alcoholic juice in the chalice, so that this is a safe table for all.

TIME OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Arr. Eklund & Biddle

Mark Biddle, Pianist

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

CLOSING COMMISSION

One: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope,

Many: Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

One: We wait anticipating your peace,

Many: Believing that one day it will fill our world.

One: We wait with joy,

Many: Bubbling up in expectation of your birth.

One: We wait embracing your love,

Many: May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.

One: Lord we wait,

Many: Come soon and fill us with your life.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ is with you.

Many: And also with you.

Our services are hybrid, meaning there are cameras in the worship space to allow those joining us via Zoom to fully participate. If you would rather not be on camera, we have marked the areas where our cameras can't see you.



Are you visiting with us today? We'd love to get to know you better!
Scan the QR code to tell us more about you.

Announcements**Metro Richmond at Prayer**

During the week of December 1st, we pray for the families of Metropolitan Richmond: For single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities of friends. For elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

Pray for our Ministry Partners

Sophia Theological Seminary grew from a recognition that, in a changing environment, theological education requires a wise and creative re-imagining. Supported by the work of Sophia Farms, the seminary seeks to be an inclusive community where life together will be marked by daily rhythms of study, worship, fellowship, and work.

Concerned Northside Churches

The Concerned Northside Churches Christmas party for adults in group homes in the area will be this Thursday, December 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Battery Park Christian Church on Brook Road. All are welcome to attend and get to know some of our neighbors. If you need more information, contact Nancy Williams at 804-512-3130.

Battery Park Christian Church is also hosting two events for the community, and we are invited to attend. There will be a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 21 and a Community Breakfast on Christmas morning. Fliers are on the table in the back of the worship space. Feel free to take one and spread the word. All are welcome!

Advent Calendar

This Advent, we're asking you to participate in a small homework assignment each week. Bring an object with you to worship that represents a memory of Hope, Peace, Joy, or Love. The four Sundays of Advent are:

- Dec 1 - Hope
- Dec 8 - Peace
- Dec 15 - Joy (also our potluck brunch day - bring a dish to share at 9am!)
- Dec 22 - Love
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service at 5pm

Day for All People

Registration is now open for the Day for All People 2025. This is the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy's annual lobby day and an incredible opportunity to join with other people of faith and goodwill as we advocate for others at the General Assembly session. Hope you can join us on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 7:30am to 3:15pm at Centenary United Methodist Church! Visit their website to register - <https://virginiainterfaithcenter.org/>

Study Opportunities

- **Sunday Morning Small Group** - meets at 9am, and they are studying the book *Our Greatest Gift - a Meditation on Dying & Caring*, by Henri Nouwen. Contact Raymond Cady for more information.
- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** - is studying Acts on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Don Polaski for more information.

Backpack Update

We are in need of paper bags with handles for our weekly backpack food program. The business that was donating bags is no longer able to do so, and we are running low! Please continue to bring in your bags from your shopping trips, and if you are able please purchase extras. See Dixie Leathers or Connie Bak for more details.

Worship isn't the same without you...

...and we'd love to have your help! We need volunteers to help on Sunday mornings by leading the Call to Worship and the Prayers of the People, and to facilitate the Zoom room. Contact Anita to sign up (alaffoon@ginterparkbc.org)!



HOPE

js